



EMERGING/RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Disease refers to an infectious disease that has newly appeared in a population or has existed but is rapidly increasing in incidence or geographic range in the near future. Emerging infectious diseases can be caused by previously undetected or unknown infectious agents or pathogens and can occur in the form of an outbreak, cluster, epidemic, or pandemic.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There has been one emergency-level Emerging/Re-Emerging Infectious Disease event in Howard County during the reviewed time period (1994-2019), the H1N1 outbreak in 2009. During that outbreak, 40,001 Howard County residents received the H1N1 vaccination at drive-through vaccination points, flu clinics, schools, and community centers. In late 2014, Howard County engaged in a public messaging effort to promote understanding of the Ebola virus threat. A similar effort was undertaken in 2016 for the global Zika epidemic. In January 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) began responding to a pandemic of respiratory disease spreading from person-to-person caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. The disease was named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19") and continues to pose a serious public health risk at the time of this publication. The Federal Government continues to work with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this pandemic.

WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

There is an expected 11-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of an Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Disease event in Howard County. In the most likely Emerging/Re-emerging Infectious Diseases scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Critical-Catastrophic.

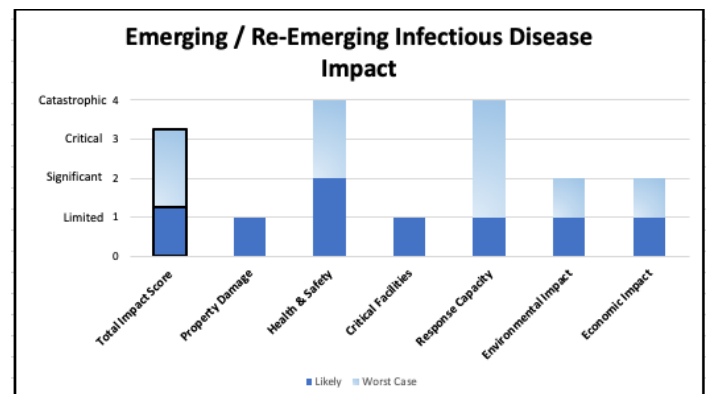
DID YOU KNOW?

- Howard County has 12 Points of Distribution (PODS) for vaccines to be used during a disease epidemic.
- Howard County does not have any hospitals with bio-containment units.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)

Please note, the scores for the various hazards were submitted by OEM's subject matter experts in August 2019. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide civil unrest spanning from March 2020 to present at the time of publishing the HIRA (July 2020), subject matter experts were asked to incorporate additional feedback or update scores if applicable. These updates were incorporated into the 2020 version. The HIRA will be updated annually for these scores in order to provide the most accurate data for Howard County.



Emerging / Re-Emerging Infectious Disease Risk Profile				
TIME/CONSEQUENCE	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	1.25 Limited-Significant	3.75 Likely-Very Likely	50%
	Impact	1 Very Long	3.25 Critical-Catastrophic	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	4 Very Long	1 Very Long	5%
	Duration	4 Very Long	4 Very Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		2.6	3.4	

